

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

- 1.-15. (Cancelled).
16. (Currently amended). A rescue underlay for a mattress comprising:
- a. a substantially flat material comprising spacer woven fabric, wherein the material is substantially the size of a mattress;
 - b. at least one pull member; and
 - c. at least one patient securing belt.
17. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 16, further comprising at least one mattress retaining band.
18. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 16, wherein the material comprises plastic.
19. (Cancelled).
20. (Currently amended). The underlay of claim ~~19~~16, wherein the spacer woven fabric is a spacer knitted fabric.
21. (Currently amended). The underlay of claim ~~19~~16, wherein the spacer woven fabric has a thickness from about 4 mm to about 20 mm.
22. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 16, wherein the material is selected from the group consisting of flame resistant material, fire-resistant material, non-decaying material, non-hygroscopic material, polyester material, polyamide material, aramide material, glass fiber material, saran material, or combination thereof.
23. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 16, wherein the material further comprises a coating on the underside.
24. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 23, wherein the coating is a plastic film.

25. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 24, wherein the plastic film is selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, polyester, and combination thereof.
26. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 24, wherein the plastic film exhibits a lower sliding friction than the material.
27. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 23, wherein the coating is water-impermeable.
28. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 23, wherein the coating is washable.
29. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 23, wherein the coating is air-permeable.
30. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 23, wherein the coating is readily disinfected.
31. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 16, wherein the material further comprises a braking surface, wherein the braking surface exhibits a higher sliding friction than the material.
32. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 23, wherein the coating further comprises a braking surface, wherein the braking surface exhibits a higher sliding friction than the coating.
33. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 23, wherein the material comprises a plurality of layers of substantially flat material fixedly attached to each other.
34. (Currently amended). The underlay of claim 16, wherein the patient securing belt is attached to the underlay mat by an attachment selected from the group consisting of sewing and ~~Velcro~~hook and loop connections.

35. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 16, wherein the underlay further comprises tunnel-like receptions for accommodating the patient securing belt when the patient securing belt is not in use.
36. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 35, wherein the tunnel-like receptions are positioned substantially transversely to the underlay.
37. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 35, wherein the tunnel-like receptions are sewed onto the underlay.
38. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 35, wherein the tunnel-like receptions are located on the underside of the underlay.
39. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 16, wherein the underlay has three patient securing belts.
40. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 16, wherein the underlay is permanently affixed to a mattress.
41. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 16, wherein the underlay is integrated into a mattress.
42. (Previously presented). The underlay of claim 16, wherein the pull member is a loop.
43. (Currently amended). A rescue underlay for a mattress comprising:
- a. a substantially flat material ~~having a substantially high tensile strength~~ comprising spacer woven fabric, wherein the material is substantially the size of a mattress;
 - b. at least one pull loop; and
 - c. at least one patient securing belt;
- ~~wherein the material provides a spring travel.~~
44. (Currently amended). A rescue underlay for a mattress comprising:

- a. a substantially flat plastic material ~~having a substantially high tensile strength~~ comprising spacer woven fabric, wherein the material is substantially the size of a mattress;
- b. at least one pull loop; and
- c. at least one patient securing belt;

~~wherein the plastic material provides a spring travel.~~

45. (Currently amended). A method of moving a patient comprising:

- a. providing a patient reclining on a rescue underlay for a mattress; and
- b. moving the patient from a first location to a second location, wherein the underlay comprises
 - i. a substantially flat material comprising spacer woven fabric, wherein the material is substantially the size of a mattress;
 - ii. at least one pull member; and
 - iii. at least one patient securing belt;

wherein the patient can be moved by one person pulling the patient on the rescue underlay.